GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2702
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2002
FUNDS FOR FM RADIO STATIONS
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 133 F.M. Radio Stations sought to be commissioned out of which only 122 were actually commissioned and Rs. 4.41 crore became unproductive due to wrong selection of site;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 17 crore was spent for purchase of equipment before the land was acquired, resulting in non-utilisation of funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken to punish the guilty and to prevent such recurrent in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a),(b)&(c): No, Sir, Out of 133 F.M. Radio Stations targeted to be commissioned, 125 projects have been commissioned and the remaining 8, have been completed and are awaiting commissioning. Prasar Bharati has informed that the figure of Rs. 4.41 crores pertains to the FM project at Tirupati. The site for Tirupati project was selected with due care but the project was delayed due to delay in obtaining approval from other agencies for installation of associated equipment. The project has been commissioned.

Prasar Bharati has informed that action for procurement of long delivery items is taken in advance by AIR, in order to cut the overall execution time available in acquisition for site and construction work. Prasar Bharati has reported that acquisition of site often gets delayed as sites offered by State Governments are subsequently withdrawn or not found technically suitable.

(d): Does not arise.